

to a large extent, failed of their full effect
failed, above
all, in their full effect upon opinion The stuff
is there,
but, for the majority of readers, it is not what
the Americans
call "available⁵", they just don't get it
something has
happened to the medium of presentation
which makes
it a non-conductor Theie is a muffling and
blurring
of the edge of speech, the narrative is fluent,
yet some-
how viscous One is reminded of that curiously
blunted
language in which the Reports of Commissions
and Com-
mittees, and of Go\ernment Departments, are
composed
It would be more accurate, historically, to
put this
comparison the other end up among
other things
they have impressed upon a world which,
even at this
date, does not fully recognise what it owes
to them, is
a certain form of architectuie as applied to
political and
economic science, an architecture of
expression, as well
as an architecture of thinking So thoroughly
has this
impression taken place that it would be, to-
day, more
accurate to say that Reports, etc , tend to
be "written
in Webb," than to sa\ that their style recalls
that of an
official document The result, anyhow, is not
wholly a
fortunate one "Webb," at its most
distinctive, is not
really a good language

When one attempts to analyse it, one finds
that the
trouble is with the sentences, not \\\ith the
words Their
\ords are excellent An immense \ocabulary
waits upon

their commands They coin phrases \\with the most admirable facility For the particular noun and adjective, each of them, in single-handed writing, shows a keen sense, this they retain, for conjoint effectiveness She has a special talent for psychological, he for institutional phrasing One can never forget her "genteel surreptitiousness" or "discriminating penunousness", or his "sectarian and unsectanan intolerance" and "adminis- trative nihilism" True, these examples, which could